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Fifty-first session
Agenda items 58 and 105

QUESTION OF CYPRUS

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

Letter dated 15 November 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 November 1996, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 58 and 105.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 14 November 1996 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot delegate during the 23rd meeting of the Third Committee, on 4 November 1996, under agenda item 105, Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions (see A/C.3/51/SR.23). This statement contains allegations that grossly misrepresent and distort the realities of the Cyprus issue.

In his statement, the Greek Cypriot delegate, in an obvious attempt to cover up the Greek Cypriot side's exclusive responsibility for the existing division of the island, has once again described the legitimate military presence of a guarantor Power as an "occupation". In fact, the only occupation in Cyprus is the 33-year-old usurpation and continued occupation of the seat of government of the once bi-communal Republic of Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot side.

As regards the Greek Cypriot side's self-portrayal as the victimized party in the Cyprus question, I wish to underline that there is ample graphic evidence in the form of reports by the Secretary-General and the international press that during the years between 1963 and 1974 a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing was directed by the Greek Cypriots against their former Turkish Cypriot partners in Cyprus. Turkish Cypriots were relieved of this agony and were saved from total extermination only by the timely intervention of Turkey on 20 July 1974, after the bloody attempt at the final takeover of Cyprus by Greece, through a coup d'état organized by the latter and its collaborators in Cyprus. Turkey's intervention was undertaken in accordance with its rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee and was fully legal and legitimate. It is true, therefore, that there had been an invasion in Cyprus in 1974, but this was the "Greek invasion of Cyprus", as it was described by the Greek Cypriot side's own leader, Archbishop Makarios, in his speech before the Security Council on 19 July 1974 (see S/PV.1780).

The 11-year-long ethnic cleansing campaign of the Greek Cypriots, culminating in the coup d'état of 15 July 1974, had produced around 30,000 Turkish Cypriot refugees, one quarter of the entire Turkish Cypriot population at the time. During this period, Turkish Cypriots were effectively disenfranchised and forced to live in scattered enclaves under socio-economic siege. This is what the assessment of the Secretary-General was about, the plight of the Turkish Cypriot people in that tragic period, as stated in his report to the Security Council dated 10 September 1964 (S/5950, para. 222): "... The economic restrictions imposed against the Turkish communities in Cyprus, ... in some instances have been so severe as to amount to a veritable siege."

During the events of 1974 triggered by the coup d'état, 65,000 more Turkish Cypriots were displaced and sought refuge in the safety of the north. It was only then that the Greek Cypriots also became a party to the problem of displacement that had afflicted the Turkish Cypriots for 11 years, resulting in

nearly four fifths of the Turkish Cypriot population becoming refugees, some of them many times over.

The question of displaced persons has been fundamentally settled between the two sides through the agreement on the exchange of populations reached between the two sides at the third round of the intercommunal talks held at Vienna from 31 July and 2 August 1975, whereby the two sides agreed on a voluntary regrouping of populations, each in its own respective territory, the Turkish Cypriots in the north and the Greek Cypriots in the south (see S/11789 of 5 August 1975). The implementation of this agreement, which paved the way for a bizonal, bicommunal federal settlement of the Cyprus question, was carried out with the help of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) (see S/11789/Add.1 of 10 September 1975). The displaced persons on both sides have since been resettled and rehabilitated, each side tackling its own problem in this regard within its own territory.

In view of the foregoing, I wish to remind the Greek Cypriot side, once more, that any and all issues pertaining to the Cyprus question should be discussed at the intercommunal talks and not be turned into a tool for political posturing. The Greek Cypriot side should realize that playing the role of the victim in Cyprus is a short-sighted policy and that the solution of the Cyprus question lies at the negotiating table.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 58 and 105.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION IN EASTERN SLAVONIA, BARANJA AND WESTERN SIRMIUM

FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PREVENTIVE DEPLOYMENT FORCE

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) (A/51/519), the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) (A/51/520) and the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) (A/51/508 and Corr.1). During its consideration of the reports, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided the Committee with clarifications and additional information.

2. The reports on the financing of the above three missions reflect an update of cost estimates for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, which were submitted by the Secretary-General in documents A/50/906 (UNMIBH), A/50/909 (UNTAES) and A/50/895 (UNPREDEP) and reviewed, subsequently, by the Advisory Committee (A/50/903/Add.1).

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly endorsed, in part I, paragraph 1, of its resolution 49/233 of 23 December 1995, the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that for peacekeeping operations with budgetary and operational requirements not subject to fluctuation there would be review and approval of a budget once a year, and assessment would be subject to renewal of the mandate by the Security Council (A/49/664, para. 30). The Advisory Committee points out, in this connection, that budgetary and operational requirements for the missions did not change significantly. The Advisory Committee recommends that in such cases the Secretary-General should

prepare short reports indicating the areas where revisions are necessary and related brief explanations.

4. The General Assembly, by its resolutions 50/241, 50/242 and 50/243 of 7 June 1996, took note of the cost estimates proposed by the Secretary-General for the three missions during the 12-month period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997, endorsed the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee and appropriated funds for the missions for the 6-month period from 1 July to 31 December 1996. The table below illustrates the initial and revised cost estimates for the missions for the 12-month period beginning on 1 July 1996, as proposed by the Secretary-General, the appropriations recommended by the Advisory Committee for the 12-month period and appropriations approved by the General Assembly for the 6-month period from 1 July to 31 December 1996.

	UNMIBH	UNTAES	UNPREDEP
	(Thousands of United States dollars)		
As proposed by the Secretary-General			
Cost estimates (gross)	158 799.6	284 776.5	52 351.5
Monthly assessment (gross)	13 233.3	23 731.4	4 362.6
As recommended by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions			
Appropriation (gross)	147 403.4	274 088.8	51 327.5
Monthly assessment (gross)	12 283.6	22 840.7	4 227.3
As approved by the General Assembly			
Appropriation (gross)	75 619.8	140 484.3	26 296.2
Monthly assessment (gross)	12 603.3	23 414.1	4 382.7
As revised by the Secretary-General			
Cost estimates (gross)	157 093.0	276 898.3	51 402.6
Monthly assessment (gross)	14 218.3	23 882.3	4 395.2

5. As can be seen from the table, although the revised cost estimates for all three missions reflect a slight reduction, compared with the original cost estimates, they are still higher than the amounts recommended by the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee points out that the assumptions upon which its recommendations on the original cost estimates were based are still valid. The Advisory Committee notes, for example, that a number of the reductions in the revised cost estimates proposed by the Secretary-General relate to the same factors upon which the Advisory Committee had based its recommendations, such as

delayed deployment of personnel and unverified value of contingent-owned equipment.

6. The Advisory Committee is of the view that new or updated requirements of the missions should be accommodated within the appropriations previously recommended by the Advisory Committee for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 (A/50/903/Add.1, paras. 54, 61 and 64). In the paragraphs below, the Committee makes a number of comments and recommendations with regard to the three missions.

7. The revised cost estimates for all three missions include additional provisions ($21,000 for UNMIBH, $20,000 for UNTAES and $7,000 for UNPREDEP) under budget line item 12, Public information programmes, in connection with the production of the United Nations in Action series by the Department of Public Information. The Committee notes from the additional information provided to it (see annex I), that "coverage, within the United Nations in Action series, of supplemental, ad hoc, short-term and emergency activities of the United Nations, such as peacekeeping, which are not included in the regular budget, require supplemental funding". The Committee points out in this connection that the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 includes funds for the production of a United Nations in Action television magazine item on major activities of the Organization under activity 3 (c) (ii) of subprogramme 2, Information services, of the programme of work of the Department of Public Information. The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to clarify whether supplemental funding is necessary; pending such clarification, the Advisory Committee recommends that no provision be made under the budgets of peacekeeping operations for the production of the United Nations in Action series. The Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will take full account of the Advisory Committee's previous recommendation that the mandate for such public information activities as could be financed from the budgets of peacekeeping operations should be specifically spelled out in the relevant resolutions of the Security Council (A/50/802, para. 10). The Advisory Committee points out, in this connection, that it is still awaiting the submission by the Secretary-General of a report on the financing of the production of the Blue Book on peacekeeping operations.

United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

8. The revised cost estimates for UNMIBH reflect a net decrease of $1.7 million compared with the original cost estimates. The decrease is due mainly to delays in the deployment of civilian personnel ($4.4 million) and reduced requirements for air operations ($1.3 million). These reductions were offset in part by an increase in requirements for local staff salaries ($2.4 million) and common staff costs ($1.5 million).

9. The additional requirement of $2.4 million for local staff salaries is due to a 70 per cent increase approved for the mission area following the completion of a salary survey. On request, the Committee was provided with additional information on the local salary survey conducted in Sarajevo, which is reproduced in annex II. The Advisory Committee requests that the Secretary-General submit to it for review a detailed explanation of the criteria used in the course of preparation and conduct of the local salary survey; in the

meantime, any additional requirements relating to the local salary survey should be accommodated within the total appropriation of $147.4 million gross previously recommended by the Committee.

10. An additional provision of $145,000 is proposed in connection with the Mission's 74 per cent share of the cost of the programme to support selection, recruitment and training of civilian police for UNMIBH and UNTAES. Additional information on the training programme, which was provided to the Committee upon request, is contained in annex III.

11. In connection with the Trust Fund for the police assistance programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was established on 25 March 1996 to support the mandate of UNMIBH, to train and otherwise assist the local police and law enforcement institutions, the Advisory Committee requests that the next budget submission for UNMIBH clearly identify activities funded from the Trust Fund.

United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium

12. The revised cost estimates for UNTAES provide for a decrease of $15.5 million, compared with the original cost estimates, which is somewhat offset by an increase of $7.7 million. The decrease is due mainly to the reduced provision for contingent-owned equipment ($4.9 million), the reduction in the number of civilian police ($2.2 million), the delayed deployment of international personnel and United Nations Volunteers ($3.6 million) and the reduction for premises ($1.3 million) and supplies and services ($3.0 million). The increase is due mainly to additional requirements of $2.3 million for local staff salaries and $4.3 million for air operations. As reflected in the report (A/51/520, para. 15), the revised cost estimates provide for an additional 33 staff (8 international and 25 local) for a period of six months; the Advisory Committee has no objection to the request for additional staff, provided that the level of appropriation of $274.1 million gross previously recommended by the Committee, is not exceeded.

13. The Advisory Committee notes from the report (A/51/520, annex III.C, para. 4) that the additional requirements of $2.3 million for local staff salaries are due mainly to the fact that following the completion of a salary survey, the scale for the former United Nations Protected Areas has been discontinued and, with effect from 1 July 1996, the salary scales for Zagreb are applicable elsewhere in Croatia; additionally, Zagreb salaries increased by 15 per cent effective 1 July 1996. On request, the Committee was provided with additional information on the local salary survey conducted in Zagreb which is reproduced as annex IV. The Advisory Committee requests that the Secretary-General submit a detailed explanation of the criteria used in the course of the preparation and conduct of the local salary survey; in the meantime, any additional requirements relating to the local salary survey should be accommodated within the total appropriation of $274.1 million gross previously recommended by the Committee.

14. The reduction in the number of civilian police and the delayed deployment of international staff and United Nations Volunteers should have, in the view of the Committee, resulted in reduced requirements under a larger number of budget

line items. For example, requirements for transport operations show an increase of $82,900, while, in the opinion of the Committee, they should have been reduced. The Committee requests that the Secretary-General undertake a detailed review of the need for vehicles and their utilization in the Mission and include the results of his review in the next budget submission for UNTAES.

15. Additional requirements of $4.3 million are included for air operations. Although some explanation of the requirements is provided (A/51/520, annex III.C, paras. 13 and 14), the Advisory Committee points out that the budget submission does not contain a clear analysis of the need for 12 helicopters and 2 fixed-wing aircraft; the Committee requests, therefore, that such an analysis be included in the future budget submissions for UNTAES.

United Nations Preventive Deployment Force

16. The revised cost estimates for UNPREDEP provide for a net decrease of $0.9 million, compared with the original cost estimates. This decrease results mainly from savings owing to delays in deployment of civilian staff ($1.2 million) and reductions in the requirements for contingent-owned equipment ($1.0 million), which are somewhat offset by a total increase of $1.3 million resulting from the inclusion of non-recurrent costs for which no provision was made in the original cost estimates ($0.7 million) and changes in the cost parameters for rations and vehicle spare parts ($0.6 million). The revised cost estimates do not provide for any changes in the military strength or civilian staffing of the Force.

17. The Advisory Committee notes from the report (A/51/508, annex III.C, para. 7) that the provision for spare parts, repair and maintenance for United Nations-owned vehicles is proposed to be increased from $300 to $500 per month per vehicle. The Committee believes that the proposed provision of $500 is too high and should be reduced; it requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to bring down the average cost of spare parts, repairs and maintenance of United Nations-owned vehicles and include information on the results of his efforts in the next budget submission for UNPREDEP.

18. The Advisory Committee is of the view that the revised cost estimates of $51.4 million for the Mission can be accommodated within the total appropriation of $51.3 million previously recommended by the Committee.

ANNEX I

Provision for the United Nations in Action series

1. The United Nations in Action series of programmes is a mandated activity of the Department of Public Information supplying nearly 60 news video magazine items annually to subscribers around the world. It ensures that television organizations have up-to-date video material on United Nations activities from development to peacekeeping, while also ensuring archival footage for future use. Coverage, within the United Nations in Action series of supplemental, ad hoc, short-term and emergency activities of the United Nations, such as peacekeeping, which are not included in the regular budget, require supplemental funding.

2. Video, radio and photo material, gathered through the coverage of peacekeeping missions is used both in internal and external information programmes, in outputs of field-based information components of peacekeeping missions and at Headquarters. In this regard, video and audio tapes are duplicated and dubbed or voiced-over in local languages and adapted for use in the mission area and neighbouring regions. Such coverage provides essential raw material for broadcast in the mission area. Significant mission area audiences include the general population, military and civilian mission staff, journalists and official visitors. Videotapes on the activities of the United Nations Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES) and the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP), for example, are being prepared for use in the mission area as a result of recent television coverage conducted in the former Yugoslavia.

3. Archives of this material are a critical asset to the Organization. They help maintain a record of field activities in support of training, briefing and educational actions. In addition, they reinforce institutional memory and help explain the role of the United Nations in peacemaking and peacekeeping to audiences unfamiliar with the practical aspects of United Nations action in those fields. The United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) and the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) have, for example, recently raised the possibility of using video material on United Nations peacekeeping activities from the archives of the Department of Public Information, for local language productions to explain the role of United Nations military observers and disarmament/demobilization operations.

4. In addition, feedback has shown that United Nations in Action items, which are distributed in five languages to more than 100 countries, are extensively used by broadcasting organizations and are rated "excellent" or "very good" by viewers and broadcasters alike. The English language version of the United Nations in Action is broadcast weekly by the Cable News Network (CNN) World Report, which is viewed by an estimated audience of 2 million in the United States; a much larger number view these items in the more than 140 countries that receive CNN International.

5. The specifics on the requirements for the United Nations in Action series are as follows:

(a) UNMIBH. United Nations in Action series coverage provides for the hiring of a television producer experienced in United Nations productions, as well as a cameraman/technician, over a period of seven days at a cost of $1,000 per day, plus an amount of $2,000 to cover travel and per diem, to prepare stories and collect archival footage;

(b) UNTAES. Provision in the amount of $10,000 for United Nations in Action series coverage provides for the hiring of a local crew and a United Nations television producer from New York over a seven-day period to secure video coverage at a cost of $1,000 per day, plus an amount of $3,000 to cover travel and per diem;

(c) UNPREDEP. The funds requested for United Nations in Action series coverage represent payment for a television producer experienced in United Nations productions and a cameraman/technician who will provide their own equipment to shoot material over a five-day period at a cost of $1,000 per day, plus an estimated $2,000 to cover travel and per diem, for a total amount of $7,000. To minimize costs, the Department of Public Information is recommending that the producer and his assistant, who are in the region, travel overland to Skopje from Bucharest.

ANNEX II

United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Additional information on the local salary survey conducted in Sarajevo

1. The Office of Human Resources Management conducted a survey of the best prevailing conditions of employment in Sarajevo based on the methodology approved by the International Civil Service Commission to determine the best prevailing conditions of employment for locally recruited staff at non-Headquarters duty stations.

2. This was the first comprehensive survey ever conducted for locally recruited staff in Sarajevo. In the past, salaries were not paid with reference to the local labour market. Instead, a rate equivalent to 80 per cent of the salaries applicable for Belgrade was applied. In this context, it should be mentioned that last year, although an increase of approximately 40 per cent was approved for Belgrade, Sarajevo's scale was not increased, since a comprehensive survey was scheduled for 1996. Subsequently, a salary advance equivalent to 20 per cent was granted with effect from 1 January 1996 to local staff in Sarajevo, pending the completion of the survey.

3. The survey in Sarajevo included employers from Sarajevo and Mostar. There were six employers surveyed. The list of employers included three embassies (the British Embassy, the Canadian Embassy and the United States Embassy), an international organization (the European Union), a company from the private sector (the International Management Group) and a public sector company (the NARODNA Banka). All retained employers have established personnel structures and have provided sufficient matches for analysis and retention.

ANNEX III

Additional information on the programme to support selection, recruitment and training of civilian police

1. The programme to support selection, recruitment and training of civilian police in UNMIBH and UNTAES ensures that civilian police officers arrive in the mission area with the proper training and skills required to fulfil the tasks mandated by the Security Council. Additionally, it responds to the difficulties encountered in the deployment of civilian police officers which were described in paragraph 8 and 9 of the report of the Secretary-General of 29 March 1996 (S/1996/210).

2. The programme includes the organization of five workshops in which participant Member States will receive training on how to select, recruit and train civilian police officers according to United Nations requirements. Possible locations for the workshops include: Africa (Ghana or Egypt), South-East Asia (Malaysia or Indonesia), North-West Asia (India or Nepal), South America (Uruguay or Argentina) and Eastern Europe (Russia, Austria or Czech Republic).

3. The cost of the programme totals $196,300, which will be split between UNMIBH and UNTAES according to the number of civilian police deployed. The shares for UNMIBH and UNTAES are $145,500 and $50,800 respectively. The detailed cost breakdown is as follows:

Regional civilian police workshops

	Cost (United States dollars)
Local expenses	
In-kind contribution from the host country (accommodation and meals for instructors and participants)	nil
United Nations cost	
A. Preliminary meeting in the host country to organize the workshop	
Round trip economy class airfare for one person	2 500
Terminal expenses and travel allowance for one person	400
Daily subsistence allowance (for one person for 3 days)	600
Subtotal	3 500
B. Travel	
Round trip economy class airfare for five instructors	12 500
Terminal expenses and travel allowance for five instructors	2 000
Daily subsistence allowance (reduced to 20% for 5 instructors for 10 days)	2 000
Training materials	5 260
Shipment of training materials	2 000
Subtotal	23 760
C. Scholarship for disadvantaged Member States (travel)	12 000
Total (A+B+C)	39 260
Cost of five workshops	196 300

ANNEX IV

United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium

Additional information on the local salary survey conducted in Zagreb

1. The survey in Croatia applies to Zagreb and to all locations elsewhere in Croatia. This survey was also conducted on the basis of the approved International Civil Service Commission methodology to determine the best prevailing conditions of employment for all locally recruited staff and was conducted in June 1996. Six employers were retained to determine the Zagreb scale (also applicable elsewhere in Croatia). The employers retained represent a clear cross-section of the labour market. The final sample included an employer from the public sector (the Croatia Bank), two international political employers, (the United States Embassy and the European Union) and three private sector companies, (Philip Morris, Reuters and PELCOM). All employers have been shown to have sufficient staff for inclusion in the survey. Additionally, all retained employers have established personnel structures and have provided sufficient matches for analysis and retention. The three mentioned companies in the private sector were also representative of the different industries in the labour market. Matches for employers with global classification schema were consistent with established patterns.

2. The practice of issuing one salary scale on a country-by-country basis for non-Headquarters duty stations has been in place since the revision of the methodology which is currently in use. As regards Zagreb, the employers surveyed have locally recruited staff serving on a country-wide basis.

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

Letter dated 12 November 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you with regard to the Third Space Conference of the Americas, which was held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 4 to 8 November 1996.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the Punta del Este Declaration, adopted at that meeting and attached hereto (see annex), circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 83.

(Signed) Jorge PÉREZ-OTERMIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Uruguay
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

Punta del Este Declaration

The Third Space Conference of the Americas

1. Emphasizes the importance of the Conference as a forum that reflects the interest of all participating countries in promoting cooperation in the area of space activities and reaffirms the commitment of the States of the region to the exploration and peaceful use of space activities;

2. Reiterates and reaffirms the importance of making further progress in the formulation of norms that will promote the development of international space law. In this connection, the Conference expresses the hope that the United Nations General Assembly will adopt the declaration on principles of international cooperation in space matters which was adopted by consensus at the 1996 session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space;

3. Affirms that, in order to create and expand space capabilities in the countries of the region, the parties shall pursue continuity, coordination and stability in the long term as well as the development of technology in national space activities. The parties also agree to cooperate and interact as necessary to facilitate future projects;

4. Reaffirms the importance of international cooperation in space matters in an increasingly interdependent world and invites international agencies and organizations to strengthen their participation in support of space activities in the region;

5. Urges that national programmes, government agencies and international organizations support educational activities in the fields of science and technology and promote the work of scientific and academic groups participating in space projects and activities in the region;

6. Firmly believes that cooperation projects pertaining to outer space will lead to the broadest possible development and application of space technology;

7. Invites the United Nations system, particularly through the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, to continue to provide strong support for follow-up to the recommendations of the Conference;

8. Invites the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean with the necessary support to follow up the recommendations of the Conference. To this end, the Conference requests the Commission to include in its annual report to the United Nations General Assembly the actions taken in this area;

9. Supports the recommendation made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its 1996 session that an international meeting on space-

related topics, the third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), should be held in 1999;

10. Reaffirms the importance of ensuring that the Space Conferences of the Americas continue to be held in the region every three years. During this time the pro tempore secretariat, which is located in the host country of the most recent Conference, shall provide follow-up to the outcome of the Conference and provide support for space cooperation in the region, to which end it may rely on the assistance of an inter-sessional group;

11. Endorses the conclusions and the work of the Conference as well as the projects presented in the various committees with express government support and financing from the countries proposing and participating in such projects, as noted in the report of the rapporteur;

12. Decides to adopt a plan of action for regional cooperation;

13. Urges the pro tempore secretariat of the Third Space Conference of the Americas to disseminate this Declaration and the other conclusions of the Conference to bilateral and multilateral forums and organizations;

14. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay for convening and organizing the Third Space Conference of the Americas and for its efforts to ensure the success of the Conference.